

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method monitoring a count of people traversing at least first and second  
5    passageways, said method comprising:  
        providing a first people counting data collection unit configured to store a first set of  
people count data representative of people traversing said first passageway;  
        providing a second people counting data collection unit configured to store a second set  
of people count data representative of people traversing said second passageway,  
10        establishing bi-directional communication between said first people counting data  
collection unit and said second people counting data collection unit, whereby said first set of  
people count data is accessible by said second people count data collection unit and said second  
set of people count data is accessible by said first people count data collection unit.
- 15        2. The method of claim 1, said method further comprising advertising presence of said  
first people counting data collection unit to said second people counting data collection unit.
3. The system of claim 2, said method further comprising advertising presence of said  
second people counting data collection unit to said first people counting data collection unit.  
20        4. The method of claim 1, said method further comprising periodically advertising  
presence of said first people counting data collection unit to said second people counting data  
collection unit.
- 25        5. A people counting system comprising:  
        a first people counting data collection unit configured to store a first set of people count  
data; and  
        a second people counting data collection unit configured to store a second set of people  
count data,  
30        said first people counting data collection unit being configured for bi-directional  
communication with said second people counting data collection unit.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein first people counting data collection unit is configured for accessing said second set of people count data from said second people count data collection unit.

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7. The system of claim 6, wherein second people counting data collection unit is configured for accessing said first set of people count data from said first people count data collection unit.

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8. The system of claim 5, wherein said first people counting data collection unit is configured to advertise its presence to said second people counting data collection unit.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said second people counting data collection unit is configured to advertise its presence to said first people counting data collection unit.

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10. The system of claim 5, wherein said first people counting data collection unit is configured to periodically advertise its presence to said second data collection unit.

11. A machine readable medium whose contents cause a first people counting data collection unit to perform a method of communicating with at least a second people counting data collection unit, said method comprising:

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advertising a presence of said first people counting data collection unit to at least said second people counting data collection unit.

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12. The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein said advertising is performed periodically.

13. The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein said method further comprises: receiving a second set of people count data from said second people counting data

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collection unit.

14. The machine readable medium of claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:  
analyzing said second set of people count data and a first set of people count data from  
said first people counting data collection unit.

5           15. The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said method further comprises:  
providing an output signal in response to said analyzing step.

16. A people counting data collection unit comprising a processor and a machine  
readable medium having contents that cause said people counting data collection unit to perform  
10 a method of communicating with at least a second people counting data collection unit, said  
method comprising:  
advertising a presence of said first people counting data collection unit to at least said  
second people counting data collection unit.

15           17. The people counting data collection unit of claim 16, wherein said advertising step is  
performed periodically.

18. The people counting data collection unit of claim 16, wherein said method further  
comprises:  
20 receiving a second set of people count data from said second people counting data  
collection unit.

19. The people counting data collection unit of claim 18, wherein said method further  
comprises:  
25 analyzing said second set of people count data and a first set of people count data from  
said first people counting data collection unit.

20. The people counting data collection unit of claim 19, wherein said method further  
comprises:  
30 providing an output signal in response to said analyzing step.